चूरे से इस्पात तैयार करने के लिए रेजीनेस प्रक्रिया-प्रौद्योगिकी के विकास के निधियन हेतु प्रस्ताव को भी मंजूरी दे दी है।

(घ) इस्पात विकास निधि का संग्रह मुख्य रूप से प्रमुख इस्पात उत्पादकों को दिए गए ऋणों के रूप में है। दिनांक 1-4-95 की स्थिति के अनुसार कुल बकाया ऋण लगभग 5090 करोड़ रुपये था। जबकि दिनांक 31-1-96 को निधि में शेष नकद मात्र 2.82 करोड़ रुपये था।

(ङ) इस्पात विकास निधि प्रबंधन समिति द्वारा निर्धारित ब्याज दरें निम्नानुसार हैं:—

उत्पादन से सीधे जुड़े, ऋणों पर 8%, तथा

अवसंरचना कार्यों से संबंधित ऋणों पर 5%

Target for the production of steel

534. SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA:
SHRI NAGAMANI:
SHRMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for the production of steel during Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether a large number of mini steel plants have been closed; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The anticipated production of finished steel by 1996-97, the terminal year of Eighth Five Year Plan, is about 23.8 million tonnes.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Electric Arc Furnace industry, also known as mini steel plants, is characterised by a pre-dominance of small sized furnaces which are not able to adopt modern technological features. Coupled with this, labour, financial and managerial problems faced by these units led to the closure of a number of units over a period of time. In addition, their performance has been adversely affected by the rise in the international prices of scrap which constitutes their basic raw material and other factors like high power tariff.

Schemes for welfare of minorities

535. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2809 given in Rajya Sabha on 22nd December, 1995 and state:

(a) the details of the schemes and programmes which have so far been implemented for the welfare of minorities in the country;

(b) whether Government have a proposal to provide some special incentives to them; and

(c) if so, what are the full details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) The 15-Point Programme for welfare of minorities announced in 1983 is being implemented at the Centre and State levels. The Programme on visages various welfare measures including safety and security of life and property and schemes for their socio-economic and educational upliftment. The details of the various schemes which are being implemented are as follows:

The scheme of pre-examination coaching for weaker sections based on economic criteria is being implemented by the Ministry of Welfare as a Central scheme for the target groups consisting of OBCs and minorities with the objective of increasing their in-take in Government services and professional institutions.

The National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation is implementing schemes for promotion of self-employment ventures for the backward sections among minorities through various State Channelising Agencies. They are providing loans at concessional rates.

The Maulana Azad Education Foundation was set up for the purpose of promotion of educational activities among educationally backward sections of the society particularly the minorities.

The Ministry of HRD Deptt. of Education has been implementing three separate schemes for the educational development of minorities in the minority concentration districts under the Programme of Action prepared in pursuance of National Policy on Education. The schemes are Area Intensive Programme, Modernisation of Madarsa Education and Community Polytechnics. The University Grants Commission is implementing a coaching scheme for minority candidates through the various Universities and Colleges. Under the UGC Coaching scheme candidates are provided free stipendary coaching.

(b) No other special incentives to Minorities other than the schemes and programmes at (a) are under the consideration of the Govt. at present.

(c) Does not arise.

Steel plants in private and public sectors

536. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of steel plants set up by the private and public sectors at different places in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that the steel plants whether in private or public sector are not taking any interest in the development of ancillary units; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government for making all the steel plants mandatory to develop the ancillary units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) There are 6 integrated steel plans in the public sector and 1 in the private sector.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b).

Establishment of pig iron plants in Orissa

537. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: *Will the Minister of STEEL* be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a vast scope for the establishment of pig iron plants in Orissa;

(b) if so, the number of pig iron plants proposed to be set up in that State;

(c) the places identified for the location of pig iron plants in that State; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The scope for pig iron plants in Orissa would depend on a large number of factors viz. availability and price of required grade of raw-materials, infrastructural facilities, availability and cost of financing, cost competitiveness of the product, market conditions etc. Investment would depend upon an appraisal of above factors by interested entrepreneurs and their commercial judgements.

(b) to (d) According to information made available by the State Govt. of